

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 293076

65

ORIGIN ARA-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66011

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:FTUMMINIA:BABS

ARA/CAR:FTUMMINIA

----- 083791

P 012147Z DEC 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 293076

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAM

FOL REPEAT GEORGETOWN 2409 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BRIDGETOWN
CARACAS KINGSTON PARAMARIBO SPORT OF SPAIN DTD 30 NOV.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 2409

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GY, US

SUBJECT: MOOD OF THE PM

1. WHEN ONE PONDERES MOVES OR SHIFTS IN POLICY CONTEMPLATED
OR ANTICIPATED BY THE GOG, ONE ALWAYS MUST TAKE INTO
ACCOUNT THE MOODS AND DESIRES OF THE PRIME MINISTER. THIS
TELEGRAM SETS FORTH WHAT IS BELIEVED TO BE THE CURRENT MOOD
OF BURNHAM AS GUYANA HEADS INTO WHAT CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED
AS DEEP ECONOMIC DIFFICULTY.

2. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC
COMMUNITY, JOURNALISTS, LABOR FIGURES AND GOG OFFICIALS,
EMBASSY HAS PIECED TOGETHER WHAT WE BELIEVE TO BE BURNHAM'S
CURRENT THINKING.

3. U.S.-GUYANESE RELATIONS. PM IN CONVERSATION WITH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 293076

CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER DEPLORED CURRENT STATE

OF US-GOG RELATIONS AND SPOKE OF IMPASSE WE NOW FIND OURSELVES AT BECAUSE OF HARSH WORDS FROM BOTH SIDES. PRIME MINISTER WONDERED HOW WE COULD MOVE FROM THIS SITUATION SINCE FOR HIS PART HE DID NOT WISH TO CONTINUE CONFRONTATION. IN A MEETING WHICH OUTGOING PRESIDENT OF TRADES UNION CONGRESS ATTENDED, PRIME MINISTER SAID (WITH EXPLETIVES DELETED) IN SPEAKING OF CURRENT GOG PROBLEMS, WE CAN'T EXPECT ANYTHING FROM CHINA, THE RUSSIANS WILL SCREW US, THE CUBANS CAN'T HELP US, AND WE CAN'T EXPECT MUCH HELP FROM THE AMERICANS BECAUSE OUR RELATIONS ARE SCREWED UP OVER CUBANA AIRLINER CRASH.

4. SOVIET-GUYANESE RELATIONS. LAST NIGHT AT YUGOSLAV NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION, PRIME MINISTER EXCORIATED SOVIET AMBASSADOR ON SOVIET STATEMENT SUPPORTING PRICE INCREASE BY OPEC MEMBERS. BURNHAM ACCUSED SOVIETS OF BECOMING CAPITALISTS AND WONDERED WHERE GUYANA WOULD GET AN INEXPENSIVE SOURCE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS. HE ASKED CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER IF CANADA COULD HELP AND WAS TOLD NO.

5. CURRENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. OTHER INFORMED SOURCES WHO HAVE HAD CONTACT DURING THE PAST WEEK WITH THE PRIME MINISTER CLAIM HE IS OBSESSED WITH GUYANA'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND DISTRESSED OVER THE INABILITY OF GUYANA TO SECURE ANY SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE FROM ABROAD. HIS ATTITUDE IS GUYANA WILL THEN HAVE TO GO IT ALONE EVEN THOUGH IT MEANS OBVIOUS ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS FOR THE GUYANESE PEOPLE AND A DIFFICULT POLITICAL ROAD AHEAD FOR THE PNC. AS STATED IN PARA 2, THE PRIME MINISTER APPEARS BITTER WITH THE SOVIETS BECAUSE HE PERCEIVES THEY WILL NOT OFFER ANY SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WITHOUT CONDITIONS AND BURNHAM DEFINITELY DOES NOT WANT TO FIND HIMSELF PUSHED INTO A CORNER AT THE MERCY OF THE SOVIETS. HE IS KNOWN TO BE SYMPATHETIC TO THE CUBANS BUT RECOGNIZES THAT CUBA IS CLIENT STATE OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THEREFORE SOMEWHAT SUSPECT. SO WE BELIEVE THAT THE PRIME MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 293076

BECAUSE OF A FALTERING ECONOMY AND HIS OVERREACTION AGAINST US BECAUSE OF THE CUBANA AIRLINER CRASH HAS PUT HIMSELF IN A CORNER WITH LITTLE ROOM TO MANEUVER. FACED WITH ECONOMIC BANKRUPTCY AND COMMITANT POLITICAL PROBLEMS, BURNHAM DOES NOT BELIEVE HE CAN TURN TO THE WEST AND HESITATES TO TURN TO THE EAST BECAUSE THIS MAY INCREASE JAGAN'S INFLUENCE AND CAUSE BURNHAM TO MAKE COMMITMENTS HE DOES

NOT WANT TO MEET. SO WHERE AND HOW HE WILL MUDDLE
THROUGH THIS TIME IS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE.

6. CHARGE FOR FIRST TIME SINCE THE DEPARTURE OF
CHARGE BLACKEN WAS GREETED BY THE PRIME MINISTER
AT THE YUGOSLAV NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION AND HAD THE
OPPORTUNITY TO PASS A FEW PLEASANTRIES.
MCCOY

UNQUOTE ROBINSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE293076
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: FTUMMINIA:BABS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760446-0362
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761281/aaaacsqv.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <21 JUL 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOOD OF THE PM
TAGS: PFOR, GY, US, (BURNHAM, L F S)
To: MEXICO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006